

XIV

LAST YEARS — DEATH

1901 — 1902

Zola's attempts at constructive "writing — His evolution toward Socialism — Some further remarks on " Fe*condite " — " Travail" and the pacific evolution of the working classes — Zola and the tastes of his readers — Publication of " Travail " — " I/Ouragan " — Zola's difficulties with " Verite " • — He is haunted by the Dreyfus case — He adapts it to "Verite " — His evolution in religious matters — His Positivism — His opinion of the ^French Protestants — His last days — Announcement of his death — Account and cause of it — The autopsy— Madame Zola's illness — Reception, of the news in France and abroad — Insults and tributes of sympathy — Preparations for the funeral — The question of military honours — Difficulties with Captain Dreyfus — The obsequies — A great demonstration — The speeches at the graveside — M. Anatole France's stirring oration.

Zola began his last series, " Les Quatre fivangiles," lie had been, virtually all his life, a writer of the so-called destructive school, that is to say he had directed attention to an infinity of things which in his opinion ought to be swept away, but he had said little indeed of what he would set in their place. In like manner, within narrower limits, Charles Dickens and Charles Reade had exposed abuses without indicating remedies. Zola for his part long held that remedial measures were not of his province. It was for the legislator to devise them, and there was no call for the author to go beyond an *expose* of the abuses which re- quired redress. Time and circumstances gradually modified that view, and in his last years, while persevering in his destructive work, Zola made some attempt to couple re-con-